

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California

The Honorable Toni G. Atkins
Senate President Pro Tempore
California State Senate

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Assembly

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon,

Strong, stable, and sustainable transit networks are critical for California. Robust public transit supports access to affordable housing and walkable dense neighborhoods, reduces harmful pollution, and promotes social justice. All these are particularly crucial for underserved communities. We write in support of timely action to provide near-term public transportation operations funding in this year's state budget.

Transit systems have been severely affected by external shocks, ranging from operating and capital cost inflation and pandemic-related changes to ridership patterns. The Democratic Congress provided over \$11 billion in support to California transit agencies over three COVID relief bills, which we championed. Now as those funds are exhausted, the Republican House makes additional federal transit assistance unlikely.

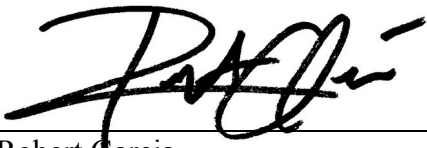
Therefore, without additional state funding to address these budget shortfalls, many agencies may soon be forced to implement drastic service cuts while laying off workers and/or increasing fares. Such actions would risk sending these agencies into a negative spiral of reduced ridership and revenue, requiring further service cuts and still deeper ridership losses.

Major transit infrastructure projects throughout the state are gearing up to leverage major, once-in-a-generation federal funds made possible by the landmark Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Many of us advocated for these funds and worked diligently to ensure they would fund projects that benefit Californians. Without direct state aid to ensure that transit agency operations remain viable, we are deeply concerned that California transit networks will be unable to benefit from these historic investments.

Operational funding needs should not come at the expense of planned capital spending, or undermine past budget commitments. Near-term operations funding and flexibility from the state will help provide agencies with time to identify long-term, sustainable funding and operational models that will improve transit service and protect against future service declines.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial and time-sensitive matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



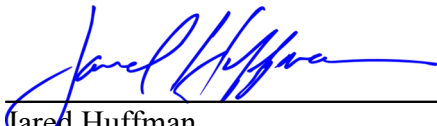
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



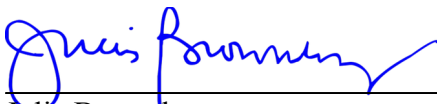
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



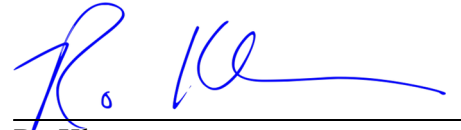
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



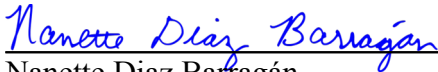
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



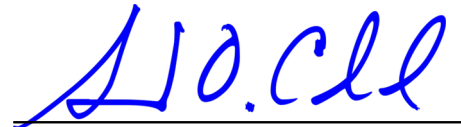
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



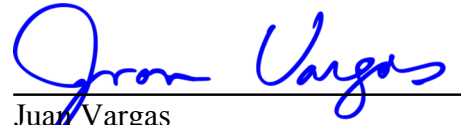
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



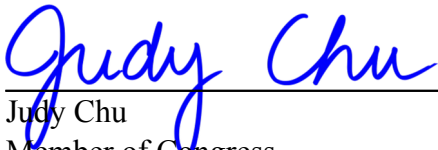
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



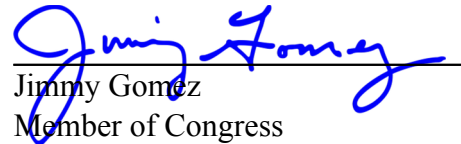
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress